



**GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY &
CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION**

Memorandum

TO: David Emadi
Executive Secretary

FROM: Joe Cusack
Senior Staff Attorney

DATE: November 17, 2020

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSAL
In the Matter of Jewel Scott
Case Number: 20-0013-C

On March 24, 2020 the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission ("Commission") received a third-party complaint filed by Tracey Graham-Lawson ("Complainant") alleging that Jewel Scott ("Respondent") had violated the Campaign Finance Act ("Act") by failing to file a December 31, 2019 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report ("CCDR"), by failing to list donors on her January 31, 2020 CCDR, and failing to disclose expenditures her campaign made during the time period prior to the January 31, 2020 CCDR.

Respondent was the successful candidate in the Clayton County Superior Court Judicial election which was held on June 9, 2020. Respondent filed her Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions on September 9, 2020 and qualified to run for office on March 5, 2020.

Complainant alleged that Respondent failed to file her December 31, 2019 CCDR, however Respondent contacted the Commission and had a filing issue that caused her report, which was timely filed, to show as a "working report" and thus was not able to be accessed by the general public. Respondent contacted the Commission to rectify the issue and was able to file the proper CCDR. Although this CCDR was technically filed late, this was due to a system error that did not allow Respondent to file the CCDR. Commission Staff was able to determine that Respondent had logged into her account and tried to file this CCDR within the time period where a late fee would not be incurred.

The December 31, 2019 CCDR was the first CCDR that was due for Respondent's campaign. Due to the system error that barred Respondent from filing the CCDR, every expenditure and contribution to Respondent's campaign until that point could not be accessed by the public. After the Commission manually corrected this filing the expenditures and contributions could be accessed by the public. All the violations alleged by Complainant stem from the December 31, 2019 CCDR not being filed. Since Respondent did attempt to file the December 31, 2019 CCDR



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and a technical issue prevented her from filing it this Complaint should be administratively dismissed.

Since no violations of the Act occurred, there is no basis to basis to proceed. Based upon the forgoing analysis, this complaint should be administratively dismissed pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 189-2-.03(5).

I, David Emadi Executive Secretary of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, agree with the above analysis to administratively dismiss this complaint. Thus, the above-referenced complaint shall stand dismissed.



David Emadi, Executive Secretary

11/30/2020

Date